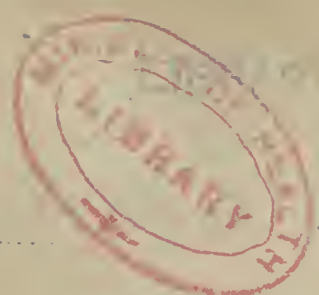


TYLDESLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



The Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,
TylDESLEY Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit my fifteenth Annual Report for the year ending Dec. 31st 1942. For economical reasons and by direction of the Minister of Health (Circular 2314). The report is still abridged. Complete records for statistical purposes are being compiled for inclusion in a detailed report at a later date.

The year 1942 shows no special feature except there is overcrowding which will become acute when men now in the forces return home after the cessation of hostilities, and a shortage of houses, this being unavoidable on account of the war, It is to be hoped that the Government will grant facilities to remedy these serious defects as early as possible.

The health of the township continues to be satisfactory. 212 deaths were recorded, the rate being 12.4 per 1,000 as compared with 11.46 per 1,000 in 1941 and 11.66 in 1940, (16.6 per 1,000 England & Wales 1942). The chief cause of death being Heart Disease, Cancer, and Intracranial Lesions, although there were 19 from violent causes, including 3 from Road Traffic Accidents and 3 from suicide.

284 births were certified giving a rate of 16.6 per 1,000, compared with 15.88 in 1941 and 13.16 in 1940. This rise is prevalent throughout the Country (15.8 per 1,000 1942 England & Wales)

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease	1942.		1941.		1940.	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths.
Diphtheria	35	2	32	1	27	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	1	-
Scarlet Fever	30	-	79	-	80	-
Measles	465	1	42	-	327	-
Whooping Cough	2	-	113	-	12	-
Erysipelas	10	-	8	-	13	-
Pneumonia	24	4	29	14	23	11
Cerebro Spinal Fever	4	-	8	1	9	-
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	-	-	2	2	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	3	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-	1	-	1	-

The number of cases admitted to Astley Sanatorium from this Authority was 81 compared with 114 in 1941.

Maternity & Child Welfare.

The Clinic continues to be well patronised, though there are many mothers who fail to bring their children and are of a type to whom the Clinic would be beneficial, one surmises that in many instances it is the feeling of not being "well dressed" themselves and likewise their children, which prevents their attendances.

The Health Visitor reports there are 265 mothers on the list at TylDESLEY with 2,670 attendances during the year. At Astley there are 168 mothers with 1,989 attendances, in comparison with TylDESLEY the percentage of attendances is much higher of children up to five years of age at Astley. The majority of children attending the clinics are under 3 years of age.

The number of bottles of Orange Juice distributed at both centres was 3,064 and Cod Liver Oil 1,948. Minor ailments are treated to a limited degree free and where necessary are referred to their own doctor, to the School Medical Officer, or the appropriate Hospital.

Infant Mortality.

12 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age were recorded giving a mortality rate of 42 per 1,000 live births which is very satisfactory considering the housing conditions. The rate of England & Wales was 49 per 1,000 the lowest ever recorded. 5 deaths were notified of children 1 - 5 years of age.

Ante-Natal Clinic. (Dr Brentnall F.R.C.O.G. Ante-Natal Consultant)

There were 175 attendances by expectant mothers compared with 116 in 1941, fifteen visits to expectant mothers by the Health Visitor. The facilities are not equal to the demand of the 284 Births notified - 54 were born in St. Mary's Hospital and 29 in Leigh Maternity Home. Many of the cases at St. Mary's Hospital had been referred by the Ante-Natal Consultant.

Maternal Deaths - It is pleasing to report none occurred from this Authority during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The Ministry of Health have by propaganda, press, and circulars laid great stress upon the importance of immunisation in the stamping out of this deadly disease, over 3,000 deaths occurring annually. Until 75% of children are immunised not much headway in the reduction of this appalling number will be made.

Circulars are handed to all mothers on their first visit to the clinics and at frequent intervals, and talks are given explaining the need of this protection, the response is gratifying and during the year under review the number of children completely immunised under 5 years of age was 99 and over 5 years of age 352. Total 451. Compared with a total of 128 in 1941. In only a very few cases did any reaction occur and these were slight, and no after effects. There are about 1,200 infants under 5 years of age and between 5 and 14 years of age approximately 2,100 in the area of this Authority.

Scabies.

A Clinic was opened in November at the First Aid Post which is well fitted and suitable, the Nurse in charge treats these cases under my supervision. 50 cases were effectively treated in this short period. The Health Visitor also visits suspects and 155 visits were made.

The Women's Voluntary Committee continues to give very helpful service which with the co-operation of the Officials and other volunteers is much appreciated.

Attached herewith is the Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

I am Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

T. E. FLITCROFT, D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1942.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

From the end of March 1942 the Department lost the services of the Additional Sanitary Inspector Mr K. Hilton who was called up into H.M. Forces. He was not replaced and in consequence a great deal of work usually performed by him chiefly in connection with Civil Defence Stock and the organisation of special salvage appeals has devolved upon other members of the Department. The work of the Department has been well maintained in spite of difficulties owing to shortage of inspectorial staff.

Housing and Overcrowding.

The essential repairs to houses are being carried out although great difficulty is being experienced in getting the work done expeditiously owing to depleted staffs of local contractors. In some instances shortage of materials to carry out the necessary work are on short supply, particularly washboilers.

There are a considerable number of houses in the district that fall seriously short of accepted pre war housing standards. Most of the houses were recommended to the Council prior to the outbreak of the war for inclusion in Clearance Areas and would, in the normal course of events, have been demolished and their tenants rehoused.

Although no accurate figures are available, overcrowding is definitely on the increase and will become serious on the return to civilian life of men and women in the forces many of whom are now married with families. With the present difficulties of obtaining furniture and houses this problem will have to be solved as quickly as possible when building houses again become possible. More applications than ever are being received for Council House relets.

At a conservative estimate at least 100 houses are now needed to rehouse occupants of houses which have outlived their period of usefulness and to abate the more serious cases of overcrowding. A further 300 houses will be required within two years of the cessation of hostilities before the housing position can be said to be even fairly satisfactory. The overcrowding and housing standards at present in force under the Housing Act 1936 are likely to show substantial and much needed improvements in the post war period. This will mean an even increasing need for new houses and redevelopment of cleared sites.

Milk and Dairies.

There are 36 Dairy Farms in the district, seven of which produce Accredited Milk. A total number of 145 visits were made and 53 samples of milk taken, 24 for Methylene Blue and B. Coli and 29 for examination for Tubercle Bacilli.

Efforts were continued during the year to have shippens brought up to the standard laid down in the Milk & Dairies Order 1926 and one shippen was provided with new floors, had walls cement rendered and a water supply provided. Preliminary negotiations were completed for other shippens to be improved the following year.

Milk producers in the district generally appreciate the necessity for the production of clean milk. Unfortunately the accepted standards of cleanliness are not universally observed and until some stricter legislation is passed making it an offence to produce milk below a certain cleanliness standard it is to be regretted that the non too particular dairyman will continue to flourish.

I believe that some incentive to produce clean milk would be given if milk prices were based upon a sliding scale the best prices being obtained for milk that reached the required standard with reductions for that failing to attain that standard, milk failing to reach a minimum standard should be rejected and returned to the farmer and no payment should be made.

Bakehouses.

Twenty-five inspections of bakehouses were carried out, in several instances it was necessary to draw the attention of occupiers and owners to the provisions of Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 regarding limewashing and cleanliness generally and also to the repair of internal walls, ceiling and floors.

Some occupiers of bakehouses appear to believe that any excuse regarding shortage of labour automatically absolves them from the responsibilities regarding limewashing and cleanliness generally and I had to inform several that whilst the bakehouses are occupied as such, statutory regulations regarding cleanliness must be rigorously carried out in spite of war time conditions.

Stirrup Brook.

The pollution of Stirrup Brook has shown no improvement during the year and has assumed to all intents and purposes the function of a sewer. The smell becomes particularly offensive in dry weather and is it fortunate that it runs mostly through open fields. I understand that little can be done to improve matters until the end of the war but I feel that the attention of the Lancashire Rivers Board should be drawn to the matter and their assurance be requested, that everything is being

done to remedy the matter at the earliest possible moment, and also that every precaution is being taken at the present time to mitigate the nuisance as far as possible during periods of dry weather flow.

Conversion Scheme.

Many of the present houses not provided with the water carriage system will be the subject of Clearance Orders in the post war period. The balance remaining will need to be dealt with under the provisions of the Public Health Act 1936 and have water closets provided. Certain parts of the district will need extensions of the sewerage system before the houses in those vicinities can be converted.

The conversion of all sanitary accommodation to the water closets in houses not likely to be demolished is an urgent post war necessity and details are already being prepared of the properties likely to be affected.

Refuse Collection, Disposal and Salvage.

The work of refuse collection has proceeded satisfactorily during the year. It is becoming more and more difficult to replace men called up for the Services and attracted by higher wages to war work, by a satisfactory type of workmen. There is a greater preponderance of men over 60 years of age than the Department can usefully employ and interchangeability of men between different types of work is almost at an end.

A great deal of time has been spent upon the supervision of the Salvage Campaign which tends to fall off as the general position of the Allies improves. Destruction and theft of pig swill bins and contents reduce the yield of kitchen waste by an appreciable amount.

The increase in pay to Health Department employees since the war began now amounts to almost £1,000 per annum, which is increasing the cost of this service despite the offset of the Salvage Receipts which again amounted to over £1,000.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

THOMAS C. WARD.

Sanitary Inspector.